

Testimony of Kevin Skulczyck

In Support of

[SB No. 598](#): **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN CONNECTICUT**
[SB No. 893](#): **AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENFORCEMENT PLAN FOR HEMP PRODUCTION**
[HB No. 5481](#): **AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE LEGALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP.**

Honorable Chairs Cohen and Demicco, Vice Chairs Kushner and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding and the distinguished Environment Committee members, thank you for allowing me to speak today in **support** of [SB No. 598](#): **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN CONNECTICUT**, [SB No. 893](#): **AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENFORCEMENT PLAN FOR HEMP PRODUCTION**, and [HB No. 5481](#): **AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE LEGALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP.**

My name is Kevin Skulczyck and I had the distinct honor of serving in the legislature from 2016 to January of 2019. I'm also the former first selectman of the town of Griswold, which is one of the more rural communities in all of Connecticut's 169 towns. In the 45th House District, we have a plethora of open space and farm land. Unfortunately, the economy has caused farmers to seek other alternatives for the use of their land. In some cases, we are seeing developers building subdivisions where active farms were once run as family-owned businesses.

As the evolution of the economy goes, so do new opportunities. I'm here to support SB891?? In the fall, the federal model that allows for farmers to grow the hemp bring their product to the manufacturing and distribution centers before it ultimately goes to market. I've been working closely with leaders in this industry for the last few months and I would like to ask this body to consider legislation similar to that in Missouri and California that have followed the federal regulatory model.

We believe that the hemp industry in Connecticut could exceed over half a billion dollars a year when fully operational. Additionally, it would create somewhere between 1500 to 3000 jobs. This would provide a new revenue stream that Connecticut is always looking to leverage. And I would hope that this body would consider looking at those rural areas that are starving for opportunities to put farms back to work as well as looking at large warehouse manufacturing centers.

In closing, I would just like to say please do not hesitate to pass these bills so that we are not behind in the opportunity to become leaders on the East Coast for hemp production. Please make Connecticut hemp friendly, vote to approve SB No. 598, SB No. 893, and HB No. 5481. Thank you for your time, I will now take any questions from the distinguished members of the committee.